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DA 16-1351

Released: December 5, 2016

DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION GRANTED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF SIPSTATION, INC. AND ROCKBOCHS INC. TO SANGOMA U.S., INC.

WC Docket No. 16-11

On December 23, 2015, Sangoma U.S., Inc. (Sangoma U.S.), SIPStation, Inc. (SIPStation), and Rockbochs Inc. (Rockbochs) (together, Applicants) filed an application, pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and section 63.03 of the Commission's rules, requesting consent for the unauthorized transfer of control of SIPStation and Rockbochs to Sangoma U.S.

On February 18, 2016, the Bureau released a Public Notice requesting comment on the Application.² On March 8, 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice, with the concurrence of the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (collectively, the Agencies), filed a letter requesting that the Commission defer action on this proceeding while they completed their review of any national security, law enforcement, and public safety issues.³ We deferred action on the Application in response to the Executive Branch Agencies' request. On December 1, 2016, the Agencies notified the Bureau that they withdraw their request to defer action.⁴ The Agencies state that, based on the information provided to them by the Applicants and their analysis of potential national security, law enforcement, and public safety issues, they have no objection to the Application.

The Bureau finds, upon consideration of the record, that grant of the Application will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.⁵

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 214; 47 CFR § 63.03; Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of SIPStation, Inc. and Rockbochs Inc. to Sangoma U.S., Inc., WC Docket No. 16-11 (filed Dec. 23, 2015) (Application). Applicants also filed applications for the transfer of control of international services. Any action on this domestic Section 214 application is also without prejudice to Commission action on other related applications. On January 1, 2015, Sangoma U.S. acquired SIPStation and Rockbochs without seeking prior Commission approval of the transfer of control. On February 18, 2016, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) granted Applicants' request for special temporary authority (STA) to authorize Sangoma U.S. to continue providing service while the Bureau reviewed the domestic 214 application, effective for 60 days. WCB subsequently extended the STA. See Letter from George M. Foote, Counsel to Sangoma U.S., to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 16-11 (filed Oct. 20, 2016).

² Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of SIPStation, Inc. and Rockbochs Inc. to Sangoma U.S., Inc., WC Docket No. 16-11, Public Notice, 31 FCC Red 1187 (WCB 2016).

³ See Letter from Bermel R. Paz, U.S. Department of Justice, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 16-11 (filed Mar. 8, 2016).

⁴ Letter from Bermel R. Paz, U.S. Department of Justice, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 16-11 (filed Dec. 1, 2016).

⁵ See 47 CFR § 63.03(b).

Pursuant to section 1.103 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.103, the grant is effective upon release of this Public Notice. Petitions for reconsideration under section 1.106 or applications for review under section 1.115 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.106, 1.115, may be filed within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice. Should no petitions for reconsideration, applications for review, or petitions for judicial review be timely filed, the proceeding listed in this Public Notice shall be terminated, and the docket will be closed.

For further information, please contact Gregory Kwan, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, (202) 418-1191.